

COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO FRAZZLED FAIR FINANCES

Five Members of Executive Board Selected at Meeting Last Night to Make Complete Investigation of All Bills—Deficit Still Growing.

Gloom in considerable quantities was injected into the already gloomy situation surrounding the financial affairs of the twenty-fifth territorial fair when at the meeting of the executive committee last night the fact developed that the deficit of the fair just closed had grown from \$1300 to \$1800, and that there is a pretty good prospect for a still further increase when the bills are all in and all collectible subscriptions collected and turned into the treasury.

Soon after the meeting was called to order last night Secretary Sellers announced enough new bills to increase the deficit to \$1800, and during the meeting an additional \$200 was put up with the understanding that the games were to be allowed to run. The games were closed down, and by the sheriff, but not until after he had cashed the \$200 license check. The association hopes to secure the return of one county gaming license which it may be possible to negotiate for a consideration. Under present conditions, however, the sheriff has the money and the association has an additional \$200 deficit. This, however, was but one gloomy incident of last night's gloomy meeting.

President W. H. Greer called the meeting to order shortly after 8 o'clock with all but one or two members of the committee present.

Mr. Greer opened the meeting by calling upon the chairman of the executive committee, Mr. W. T. McCright, of the Daily Citizen, to state to the meeting what rumors of mismanagement, etc., had been in circulation in connection with the fair. Mr. McCright said he did not believe he was in a position to make such a statement, when Mr. Greer mentioned the fact that he had read of such rumors in Mr. McCright's newspaper. Mr. McCright replied with a motion that the chair appoint an auditing committee with power to investigate all details of the last fair. This motion was seconded, when Mr. McCanna suggested that the proper procedure would be to first hear the report of the secretary and then determine whether the services of such a committee were needed. This suggestion prevailed and the motion was withdrawn.

No Final Report Ready.
The secretary said he could not make a final report as there were no funds to pay remaining bills, as all bills were not in and all collections had not been made on subscription. He then read substantially the report of the first meeting last week, with the addition of bills which increased the deficit by three hundred dollars. The reading of these bills occupied some time, the secretary being frequently interrupted by members of the committee with requests for information about some of the accounts. One bill came in for board for the New Mexico mounted police for five days. President Greer stated that he had made the arrangement with the captain of the mounted police and that that arrangement called for board for the men, but for one day. The motion was passed over for future consideration. In this way some two hours were consumed, when the secretary passed to a reading from his check book of bills that had been paid. It was shown by this reading that the \$2,600 deficit of last year's fair had been paid by the secretary out of this year's receipts, that all purses, prizes, etc., had been paid, that most of the bills for labor had been paid, including \$200 of the salary of the secretary, and that some bills for advertising and material had been met. This reading also brought to light that there are about \$500 of unpaid subscriptions and that the fair association's balance in the bank is just \$14.

When all outstanding subscriptions have been paid in, all bills thus far received and unpaid added, the deficit for this year, added to the deficit for the fair of a year ago, leaves the association with a total deficit of something over \$4,500, or to be exact \$4,525. And if to this the gaming license check is added, the deficit amounts to \$4,725. It was at this point in the meeting that the gloom became general and all pervading.

The secretary then passed to the reading of a general statement of receipts and expenditures. This statement showed that approximately \$2,295 had been paid out for racing, \$450 for Indians, \$602.45 for cowboys; fruit exhibits, \$450; Jeffries, \$579.50; the mounted police, \$121. The soldiers' \$706; advertising, \$1,200; stenographers and clerks, \$278; electric lights, \$550; care of grounds, \$108; base ball \$1,859; ostrich, \$550; starter, \$200; exhibit hall expense, \$250; care of track, \$215; bands, \$450.

These are the largest items of expense and are approximate, the statement of the secretary being informal. He went on into the receipts showing \$864 realized from concessions this year, \$1,250 last year, subscriptions \$5,225 this year against \$7,200 last year, entrance fees for races \$569 this year against \$1,500 last year; gate receipts \$4,249.45 this year against \$2,560.05 last year.

At this point the secretary was questioned as to bar and restaurant privileges in the fair grounds, developing the fact that the association received no return from these privileges this year, which in past years have brought considerable sums.

The secretary called attention to the fact that the showing for this year would have been much better had he not been required to pay the \$2,600 deficit of last year, but the committee facing its \$4,500 deficit, could get no great comfort from this view of it.

Suggestions were then made by several of the committee as to ways and means to wipe out the deficit. The matter of pro raising the bills yet unpaid was brought up, but it was shown that this method could not be entertained, some of the bills having already been paid in full.

An Investigation Needed.
It was at this point that Vice President George Arnot came forward with the only definite action resulting from the meeting. Mr. Arnot said that there was no use discussing plans for raising money to raise the deficit while the present rumors as to the management of the fair were in circulation. He then went on to state the rumors, which he said reflected directly not only on the officers of the association, but on the committee, and which must be proven or disproved fully and finally before any steps could be taken toward wiping out the deficit with any hope of success. He said that it was commonly reported that the fair had not been properly managed, and that it had been run for the benefit of the Traction company. He said that within the day he had heard a rumor that the Traction company had received \$500 for the use of the grounds. While he knew the absurdity of the rumor, he believed that this and all other rumors of similar nature must be investigated and wiped out before any move could be made toward paying the deficit, that the investigation must be full and complete and the report published in detail, so that there could be no mistake as to the facts; so that the subscribers to the fair and the public generally could know whether or not the fair had been properly managed. President Greer said briefly that Mr. Arnot's suggestion was right, that an investigation committee with full powers should be appointed and that its report should be full and public.

Committee Appointed.
P. F. McCanna then took the floor and said that since the idea of the investigation and auditing committee seemed to be the prevailing one in the meeting, that he moved the appointment or election of such a committee. He named such a committee, leaving his name carefully out of it. An amendment was immediately offered placing Mr. McCanna on the committee, which was unanimously accepted by the meeting. The committee as finally selected is as follows:
D. A. Macpherson, chairman; W. T. McCright, P. F. McCanna, Felix Lawrence and B. H. Briggs.

The committee is to first receive a full and detailed report from the secretary, with all bills paid and outstanding, and with power to examine into all accounts, books and records. It is to report its findings back to the executive committee. In the meantime the officers of the association are to endeavor to collect outstanding subscriptions and to develop any permanent shadow over the association, for already the heads of the executive committee and the officers are at work to find a way out of the present difficulties and into clear sailing, and there is no doubt that they will succeed. Plans were suggested last night, none of them very feasible, but all showing

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that there is a determination to find a way out.

Secretary Has Lottery Plan.

Secretary Sellers came forward with the most elaborate plan suggested last night. He outlined to the committee a scheme by which 2,000 tickets should be issued to merchants, each worth one dollar, and that these tickets be given away with every purchase of sufficient amount. When \$5,000 had been sold, there would be \$4,500 for the deficit, and \$500 remaining. This \$500 would be awarded to the lucky man in the drawing. The plan looked good and a hopeful smile spread over the faces of some of the committee, when suddenly the still small voice of an attorney seated behind a desk piped up: "You're likely to get pinched for that; the government won't allow lotteries."

The hopeful smile vanished. There were other plans, but the committee deemed it best to hold them all in abeyance pending the report of the committee.

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Miss Viola Kremer and Miss Agnes Stillhorn, well known young ladies who have been teaching in the Albuquerque public schools, announce that they have opened an art and music studio in the Barnett building, rooms 25 and 26.

Miss Kremer, who is a graduate of the Michigan Conservatory of Music, in Detroit, and who is a finished pianist, will teach voice and piano. Miss Stillhorn has studied art extensively in the leading schools of New York and will give instruction in drawing and water colors. Studio hours will be from 9:30 to 12 a. m., and 2 to 4:30 p. m.

Card of Thanks.

George W. Lang wishes through these columns to sincerely thank the ladies of the Eastern Star, members of the Baptist church and others for kindness extended during the long illness and since the death of his wife, Clara E. Lang.

Removal Notice.

We have moved from 310 West Gold to 217 West Gold, in office of J. M. Moore Realty Co.

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The Albuquerque Traction company has placed on record in the office of the county recorder a trust deed for \$250,000, covering the company's lines, real estate and other property in Albuquerque. The instrument is one of the largest of the kind recorded in this county in recent years, and is understood to cover a bond issue which will be made in the near future. Of much more interest to the public, however, is the fact that this bond issue will provide for several large extensions and improvements which will be under way in the near future and which it is hoped to complete in six months.

President W. H. Greer, of the Traction company, who returned to Albuquerque yesterday declined to give the Morning Journal details of these extensions. He said that the filing of the trust deed had direct bearing on the improvements planned and indicated that the company proposed to spend from \$75,000 to \$100,000 in Albuquerque within the next six months. He said, in fact, that the expenditure of this sum in improvements and extensions had been agreed upon by the company.

Asked if the appropriation contemplated the extension of the trolley line into the Highlands, Mr. Greer declined to say. He said all plans had not yet been completed and that he would not be ready to give them out for some time.

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